Octob. 22. 42 Bo: C. 42 10

HIS MAIESTIES DECLARATION

To all HIS Loving *Subjects*

Vpon

Occasion of a late Printed Paper,

ENTITVLED,

A Declaration and Protestation of the *Lords* and *Commons* in Parliament of this Kingdom, and the *whole World, of the 22 of October.* &c.

H. 5 Bo.

With the Kings Proclamation to His County of Kent.

Printed by His MAJESTIES Command

AT OXFORD,

By LEONARD LICHFIELD Printer *to the* VNIVERSITY.

1642

MANIFESTO

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With the Kings Proclamation to His County of Kent.

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1642

His MAJESTIES DECLARATION

To

All His Loving Subjects, Vpon occasion of a late printed Paper,

ENTITVLED

A Declaration and Protestation of the *Lords* and *Commons* in *Parliament* to this Kingdome, and the whole World, *of the* 22d. *of October.*

IF in truth the Framers of this Declaration are not engaged by any private passion or respect, by any evill intention to Our person, or designe to the prejudice of Our just Honour and Authority, to raise these forces and Army against Vs (as they call Almighty God to witnesse they are not) they will thinke it their duty to disclaime the Protection of the Conductors of that Army, who the next day after this so solemne Protestation, used their utmost power by the strength of that Army to have destroyed Vs, and put Our Person (for whose defence they would make the world believe this Army is raised) into as much danger as the skill and malice of des-

perate Rebells could doe, otherwise this Protestation now made, will appeare of the same nature with those by which they promised to make Vs a Glorious King, when by their *nineteene Propositions* they endeavoured to strip Vs of all those Rights which made Vs a King, and them Subjects.

What those Actions and proceedings have beene which have manifested their Loyalty and Obedience unto Vs, will be as hard to find, as their humble Petitions and remonstrances, when in truth their Actions have bin the greatest scornes of Our Authority, and their Petitions the greatest reproaches and challenges of Vs, which any age have produced; And we have not only the cleere evidence of Our owne Conscience, but the testimony of all good men, that We left no action unperformed on Our part, which might have prevented the misery and confusion which the Ambition, Fury, and malice of these seditious persons have brought upon this poore Kingdome, neither is there any thing wanting to the happinesse of Church and State, but that peace and order which the faction of these men have robbed them of.

But they directed their Generall the Earle of *Essex* to deliver an humble Petition to Vs, wherein they desire nothing from Vs, but that Wee would returne in peace to our *Parliament*, and by their faithfull Counsell and advice compose the distempers and confusions abounding in our Kingdomes, as Wee are bound to doe. Wee were never so backward in receiving, or so slow in answering the Petitions of either or both our Houses of *Parliament*, that there was need by an Army to quicken Vs, which either or both Houses of *Parliament* have in no case no more shadow of Right or power to raise by any Law, Custom, or priviledge, than they have by their votes to take away the lives and fortunes of all the Subjects of *England*; yet the Framers of this Declaration take it unkindly, that upon their profession in the sight of Almighty God (which is they say the strongest assurance that any Christian can give) Wee did not put our selfe into their hands (those hands which were lifted up against us, and filled at that time with Armes to destroy us) and leave a strength God had supplyed us with, of good and faithfull Subjects, who notwithstanding all their threats and menaces had brought themselves to Our assistance. If that Petition had beene so humble as they pretended, they would not have lost the advantage of publishing it in this their Declaration, that the world might as well have beene witnesse of our refusall of peace, as it hath been of

their

their disdaine of any way to it, when they rejected our severall earnest offers of a Treaty.

But why did they not send this humble Petition? *His Excellence* twice sent unto Vs for a safe conduct for those who should be imployed therein, & we refused to give any, or to receive the humble & dutifull petition. Sure when Our good Subjects shall understand the strange enmity betweene these men and truth, the no-conscience they use in publishing, and informing those they whom they pretend to bee trusted, things monstrous and contrary to their owne knowledge, they will not be lasse offended with their falsehood to them, then their Treason to Vs. 'Tis well knowne wee never refused to give admittance to any Message or petition from either or both Houses of *Parliament*, their Messengers have been received and entertained not only with that safety, but with that candor, as is due to the best Subjects, when their Errand hath bin full of reproach and scorn, and the bringers bold, arrogant, and seditious in their demeanour, and there ere there needed to have bin no more scruple made in the delivery of this, then the other Petitions which have beene brought Vs. the truth is, we were no sooner acquainted at *Shrewsbury* by the *Earle* of *Dorset* that hee had received a letter from the *Earle* of *Essex* intimating that he had a petition from both Houses to be delivered to Vs, and to that purpose asking a safe convoy for those who should be sent, but wee returned this Answer, That as we had never refused to receave any Petition from our Houses of *Parliament*, so we should be ready to give such a reception an Answer to this as should bee fit, and that the bringers of it should come and go with all safety, only we required that none of those persons whom we had particularly accused of High Treason should be, by colour of that petition, imployed to Vs. After this we heard no more till a second Letter, at least a fortnight after the first, to the *Earle* of *Dorset*, informed Vs, that our former Answer was declared to be a breach of priviledge that we would not allow any Messengers to come to Vs, that is, that wee were not content that such persons who had conspired our death, might securely come into our presence; our second Answer differed little from our former, intimating that the addresse should not bee made by any of those persons whom we had particularly accused of High Treason, amongst whom the *Earle* of *Essex* himselfe was one, but declaring that our eare should be still open to heare any petition from our two Houses of *Parliament*: whether this were a denyall from Vs to receive their petition, or whether if our two Houses of *Parliament* had indeed desired to Treat with Vs by petition, they might not as well have sent it to us, as they have done since their Instructions to their Ambassadours into *Ireland*, and their new Bill for rooting out Episcopacy, and devising a new forme of Church-governement, let all the world judge. We have reason to beleeve that the petition then prepared for us (if We have seene the true copie of it) was thought by the persons trusted for the presenting it, fitter to be delivered after a Battle and full conquest of us, then in the

head of Our Army, when it might seeme somewhat in Our power whether we would be deposed or no.

For that continued dishonest Accusation of our Inclination to the Papists (which the Authors of it in their own consciences (which will one day be dreadfull to them) know to be most unjust and groundlesse,) We can say no more, and we can doe no more to the satisfaction of the world, if they know that the Romish Priests have encouraged those of that Religion to conforme themselves to the Protestant Religion, by comming to Church, receiving the Sacrament, & taking the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, they are more conversant with the subtilties of them then we are, but we must confesse till we be certaine they have found that way to deceive Vs, that is, to delude the Lawes which are against them, we shall in Charity believe their conformity to be real, and not pretended; but that any Priests or Iesuites imprisoned have beene released by Vs out of the Goale of *Lancaster*, or any other Goale, is as false (to use an expression of their own) as the Father of Lyes could invent, neither are the persons named in that Declaration to whom Commissions are supposed to be granted for places of command in this war; so much as known to Vs, nor have they any commād, or, to our knowledge, are present in Our Army, and 'tis strange that our oathes and Protestations before Almighty God, for the maintenance of the Protestant Religion should be so slighted in the end of this Declaration, when in the beginning of it, it is acknowledged to be the strongest obligation and assurance that any Christian can give. Wee desire to have our Protestations believed by the evidence of our Actions. But they are informed (and that is ground enough for them to lay the basest imputation upon their Soveraigne) that Sir *Iohn Henderson*, and Colonell *Cockram* (men of ill report both for Religion and honesty) are sent to *Hamborough* and *Denmarke*; (we thought we should have heard no more newes from *Denmarke*) to raise forraign forces and to bring them hither. We have before in our Declarations (sufficient to satisfie any honest man,) declared our opinion and resolution concerning Forraigne Force, and Wee had never greater cause to be confident of security in our own Subjects, and therefore cannot believe so vile a scandall can make any impression in sober men. Let a list of the Nobility and Gentry about Vs, and in our service be viewed, and will they not bee found the most zealous in the Protestant Religion, the most eminent in reputation, of the greatest fortunes, and the greatest fame, the most publicke Lovers of their Country, and most earnest assertors of the Liberty of the Subject, that this Kingdome hath, how different the reputation of the principall ring-leaders of this faction and rebellion is, *how carefull they are of imploying vertuous and honest men, is apparent to all the world, when they have entertained all the desperate and necessitous Persons (whereof very many are Papists. Which We speake knowingly, as having taken severall of them prisoners) they can draw to them, and when they supercede a proceeding at the Common Law for an odious and infamous crime, that* M. Griffen *may have liberty to keep them company in this Rebellion.*

For

For our affection and gratious Inclination to the City of *London*, and how farre we are from any such purpose, as these impious men charge us with, appears in our late Proclamation, in which we declare the Suburbs to be comprehended as well as the Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, to which we doubt not they will give that credit and obedience, as we shall have cause to commend their loyalty in joyning with us to suppresse this Rebellion, which uncontrolled, in a short time, must make that place most miserable.

For the Oath and Covenant which they threaten us with, if it be to engage them to doe or not to doe any thing contrary to the Oathes they have already taken of allegeance and supremacy, as it cannot oblige them being taken, so we doubt not our good Subjects will easily discerne that it is a snare to betray and lead them into a condition of the same guilt, and so of the same danger with themselves; And we must therefore declare whosoever shall hereafter suffer himselfe to be cozened by those Stratagems, and take such a voluntary Oath against us, we shall impute it to so much malice, as will render him uncapable of our pardon, and shall proceed against him as a desperate Promoter of sedition, and an enemy to the Kingdom.

Let all honest men remember the many gratious Acts we have passed this Parliament for the ease and benefit of our people, that when there was nothing left undone or unoffered by us, which might make this Nation happy, these mischievous contrivers of ruine, instead of acknowledging our grace and Justice, upbraided us with all the reproaches malice and cunning could invent in a remonstrance to the people (a thing never heard of till that time) that having thus incensed mutinous and seditious mindes, they made use of them to awe the Parliament, drave us, and the major part of both Houses from our City of *London*, that they took away our Fort and Town of *Hull* from us, kept us from thence by force of armes, and imployed our own Magazine against us, that they seized upon our Royall Navy, and with it chased our good Subjects, and kept all supply from us, that they voted away our negative voyce, and then raised a formidable Army to destroy us, that when they had thus compelled us, by the help of such of our good Subjects who against the fury of these men durst continue loyall, to raise some power for our defence, they absolutely and peremptorily refused to treat with us for the peace of the Kingdome; and lastly that on the 23d of *October* they brought this Army (raised for the defence of our person) into the Field against us, and used their best skill and means to destroy us and our Children, we say whosoever remembers and considers this progresse of theirs, will think of no other Covenant then to joyne with us in the apprehending the Authors of this miserable Civill Warre, that posterity may not with shame and indignation finde that a few Schismaticall ambitious persons, were able to bring such a flourishing glorious Kingdome, which hath so long resisted the envy of Christendome, to a speedy desolation, to satisfy their own pride and ambition. And we doubt not our good Subjects of *Scotland*, will

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never think themselves engaged by the Act of pacification (to which we willingly consented) to assist a Rebellion against their own naturall King, for the assistance of persons accused and notoriously known to be guilty of high treason, the bringing of whom to condigne punishment, would with Gods blessing, be a speedy meaus of happinesse and peace to our three Kingdomes.

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BY THE KING. *A Proclamation of His Majesties Grace, Favour, and Pardon to the Inhabitants of His County of* Kent.

No: 8: 42
Kent
B.

WHereas we have taken notice, that by the malice, industry and importunity of severall ill-affected and seditious persons in our County of Kent, very many of our weake and seduced Subjects of that our County have not only been drawn to exercise the Militia, under colour of a pretended Ordinance, without or against our consent (a crime of a very high nature, if we would strictly enquire thereinto) but have made contributions of plate, money and horses, towards the maintenance of the Army now in rebellion against us; We do hereby publish and declare, that we are graciously pleased to attribute the crimes and offences of our said Subjects of that County to the power and faction of their seducers, who, we beleeve by threates, menaces, and false informations compelled and led them into these actions of undutifullnesse and disloyalty towards us; And we do therefore hereby offer our free and gracious pardon to all Inhabitants of our said County of Kent, for all offences concerning the premisses committed against us before the publishing of this our Proclamation (except Sir Michaell Lively Baronet, and Thomas Blount Esquire,) against whom we shall proceed according to the Rules of the Law, as against Traitors and Stirrers of sedition against us, and whom we do hereby require all our Officers and Ministers of Iustice, and all our loving Subjects whatsoever, to apprehend and cause to be kept in safe Custody till our pleasure be further known. Provided that this our Grace shall not extend to any person, who after the publishing this our Proclamation shall presume by Loane or contribution to assist the said Army of rebells, to assemble and Muster themselves in Armes without Authority derived from us under our hand, to enter into any Oath of Association for opposing us and our Army, or to succour or entertaine any of the persons excepted in this our Proclamation, or in our Declaration of the 12. of August. But we must and do declare, that whosoever shall hence forward be guilty of the premises, or of either of them, shall be esteemed by us as an Enemy to the publick Peace, a Person disaffected to us, and to the Religion and Law of the Kingdome, and shall accordingly receive condign punishment, of which we give them timely notice, that they may proceed accordingly at their peril's. And we do hereby will and require our high Sheriffe, Commissioners of Array, Iustices of the Peace, and all other our Officers, and loving Subjects to resist, oppose and apprehend all such Persons as shall presume to make any Leavies in that our County under what pretence soever without Authority derived from us under our hand; And we likewise will and require them and every of them to be assistant to all such as shall either command the Traine Bands of that our County, or make any Leavies in the same by virtue of Commission under our great Seale or Signe Manuall.

Given at Our Court at Reading, *this eight day of* November, *in the Eighteenth yeare of Our Reigne.* God save the King.

FINIS.